

Cross Reference to Co-Pending Applications

Background of the Invention

Information systems allow a wide variety of information to be transmitted to individual consumers of information. A typical information system includes an information transmitter and one or more information receiver systems. The information receiver systems receive the information transmitted by the information transmitter, and provide the information to the consumer. Such an information system may be based on over-the-air transmissions, satellite transmissions, wire-based transmissions including cable, fiber-optic transmissions, or any other type of information transmission medium.

For most systems, there is a large amount of information that is available for
25 broadcast. The information may take the form of news stories, entertainment
programming, software, etc. Each of these general categories of information often
have multiple sub-categories. For example, news stories may have local, national and
international sub-categories, each covering a wide variety of topical categories such as
sports, business, recreation, etc. Each topical category may have further sub-
30 categories. For example, the sports topical category may have sub-categories of
baseball, football, soccer, hockey, etc. As can be seen, there can be a wide variety of
information that is available for broadcast.

Compounding the amount of information that is available for broadcast is the